

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05108 241619Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 DHA-05
/109 W

-----035383 250252Z /14

R 241425Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5366

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 5108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, ET, SO

SUBJECT: LARGE RALLY HELD IN ADDIS

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 5091; (B) ADDIS ABABA 5064

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU AUG 20 NATIONWIDE SPEECH IN WHICH HE CALLED ON ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE TO GIVE ALL FOR DEFENSE CAMPAIGN, ADDIS ABABA RESIDENTS HELD MASSIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT RALLY AT REVOLUTION SQUARE MORNING AUG 24. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES) DEMONSTRATED CONTINUED ABILITY TO ENLIST IMPRESSIVE PARTICIPATION BY CITY RESIDENTS (ESTIMATED 200-250,000), DESPITE ALLEGED INTENSE POLITICAL INFIGHTING (REFTEL A) AND FACT KEBELE LEADERS FREQUENT ASSASSINATIONS.

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INATION VICTIMS. ALSO, CONTRARY TO RECENT RUMORS OF LOW MORALE AND DISSATISFACTION WITH MENGISTU REGIME, PARTICIPANTS DISPLAYED ENTHUSIASM EQUIVALENT TO PAST RALLIES.

2. ONLY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED VISIBLY WERE MENGISTU, PMAC VICE-CHAIRMAN ATNAFU, AND OTHER PMAC MEMBERS. THEME OF MARXISM-LENINISM RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION, WITH

ONLY FEW PLACARDS AND HAMMER-AND-SICKLE BANNERS EVIDENT.
(ALTHOUGH TEXTS OF SPEECHES BY LABOR, PEASANT, KEBELE, AND
KEBELE REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS MENGISTU, NOT YET AVAIL-
ABLE, ONLY ONE REFERENCE TO MARXISM-LENINISM HEARD ON RADIO
BROADCAST,) NO ANTI-US PLACARDS OR SLOGANS WERE OBSERVED AND IT
IS BELIEVED US NOT MENTIONED DIRECTLY IN SPEECHES. THEMES
OBSERVED ON PLACARDS DEVOTED TO ETHIOPIAN NATIONALISM, TO
CONDEMNATIONS OF SIAD BARRE AND OTHER REACTIONARY SOMALIS,
AND TO ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE RUMORS
SOME PLACARDS WOULD REFLECT INTERNAL CIVILIAN POLITICAL
STRUGGLE, THIS DID NOT PROVE TO BE CASE.

3. COMMENT: WELL ATTENDED RALLY PROBABLY ACHIEVED MINIMAL
GOAL OF STIMULATING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR WAR EFFORT AND DEMON-
STRATING DEGREE OF POPULAR SUPPORT THAT STILL EXISTS FOR
MENGISTU REGIME. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF PMAC CAN TRANSLATE
THIS SUPPORT INTO CONCRETE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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